



Violence Against Women Act & Funding—Uncertain Future?



Chris Owens
Director

February, the month known for Valentine's Day is all about the heart!

It is a perfect time for Heart Health Awareness ([About The Heart Truth](#)), because heart disease is the #1 cause of death for women.

Louisville has heart all year as a [Compassionate City](#). For Valentine's Day why not join the movement? Join the individuals and organizations resolving to be more compassionate?

In observance of Black History Month, Louisville offers a [self-guided Civil Rights tour](#) designed by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research (U of L). The institute has partnered with the [Kentucky Center for African American Heritage](#), Muhammad Ali Center and Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

To find out more visit the [Anne Braden Institute's website](#) where you can find the video, an interactive map and a list of locations is available.

Tuesday, the U.S. Senate passed the bill to re-authorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) by a large majority (78-22). Now the bill will move to the House of Representatives where it died last year. Those familiar with VAWA services were shocked in 2012 when for the first time since its inception in 1994, a re-authorization stumbled. Its future is again uncertain.

Both of Kentucky's senators voted against the bill, while both of Indiana's senators voted in favor. Kentucky receives funding for about 45 agencies (almost \$4,000,000) and Indiana receives almost \$6,000,000 in VAWA funding.

While it is true the legislation is called the Violence Against Women Act, it is also true that services are provided to men. However for certain crimes, like the ones addressed by VAWA, women make up the overwhelming majority of victims.

- In Kentucky [37.5% of women over their lifetime experience rape, physical violence &/or stalking](#) by an intimate partner.
- Intimate partner homicides make up [40–50% of all murders of women](#) in the United States.

OFW's director serves as project director for the Safe Havens grant which is the primary funding for the Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center (LMVEC). The grant was awarded by the [Office on Violence Against Women](#), U.S. Department of Justice. LMVEC offers a safe place for exchange of children and supervised visits when there is a history or potential for domestic violence between the parents (2 locations: [Family and Children's Place](#)/Shively and [Home of the Innocents](#)).

Kentucky's [recent tragedy in Perry County](#) demonstrates the necessity of safe visitation and exchange services. Similar tragedies have occurred in and around Louisville. From July 1-December 31, 2012, LMVEC completed 3,005 safe exchanges and supervised visits.

A variety of Louisville Metro area services receive VAWA funding for police detectives, court employees, victim advocates, training, emergency shelter, counseling and other services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. You can find more information in this [Courier Journal article](#) on the impact of VAWA in Kentucky and and the Louisville area and more on VAWA [legislation from WDRB](#).

Call for Volunteers: Citizen Foster Care Review Board

In 1982 the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation which created [Citizen Foster Care Review Boards](#). As a result, dedicated boards of citizen volunteers in each county look out for the well-being of children who have been removed from their homes. They review the case files, ask questions, and make recommendations.

In 2012 the [cases of 9,867 children](#) placed in out of home care were reviewed on a regular basis by 753 volunteers serving on CFCR Boards.

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards are required to evaluate and make annual recommendations to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the laws of the commonwealth and the practices, policies and procedures within the commonwealth that affect permanence for children in out-of-home placement.

In 2012 one recommendation was for Kentucky to expand Family Court to all counties as funding and other resources become available.

Volunteers are needed to help review the cases. Typically review boards meet once a month for about two hours. Jefferson County has 10 Citizen Review Boards.

To find out more about volunteering—Visit the website: [How to Become a CFCRB Volunteer](#) or [review the brochure and handbook](#).

You may also call the Department of Family & Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts at 800-928-2350.



The **Louisville Metro Office for Women** (OFW) uses policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area. OFW is a Policy, Advocacy & Community Outreach office within the Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization. OFW Committee involvement examines women's needs, system responses and assists in development of recommendations. The Office serves as an information and resource hub, maximizing resources through community education & partnerships, communication, collaboration, interns/volunteers and technology.



**News For & About
Women**

Community Calendar & News

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In keeping with the Have A Heart theme ... Ron Lehocky is a Louisville pediatrician and artist whose 20,000 handmade [polymer clay hearts](#) raise money "one heart at a time" for Kids Centre Pediatric Therapies.

Now Ron has taken up the cause of the [Samunnat Project in Nepal](#). The women in the project [are victims of abuse and some are refugees](#). A small international network of artists are assisting the women in learning skills and developing markets for their products.

The goals of the [Sumannat Project](#) are to assist one another, offer help to other victims, provide a safe place to live, offer advocacy and to become self-sufficient. This project is a shining example of what can happen when we have heart.

[OFW Louisville on Facebook](#)

[Women's Organizations](#)

[OFW Reports & Publications](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEMINIST SOCIAL CHANGE ARTISTS ACROSS THE STATE: Kentucky Foundation for Women. [Grant Opportunities](#), Deadline: March 1

ElderServe: Join us or a reception to celebrate **WOW [Wonderful Old Women] at Pyro Gallery** (909 E Market Street)
Paper Mosaics by Ann Steward Anderson

Reminder: **How to Do Business with the Commonwealth of Ky & City of Louisville** (workshop)
See details & other News for Women Owned Businesses & Entrepreneurs [here](#).

We Have Heart! Louisville is a Compassionate City
Keep up-to-date on [Compassionate Louisville activities](#) and prepare for Louisville's 2013 Annual Give-A-Day.

The **Kentucky Secretary of State's Office** received inquiries from several businesses regarding a "2013 Annual Minutes Form" they received from an entity called Corporate Records Service.

For Service Providers—From Coalition for the

Homeless: **BLUEPRINT UNIVERSITY**

The Coalition for the Homeless is pleased to offer a series of training classes designed to train front-line staff of our homeless service providers to better serve their clients. BUT, we welcome any social service provider who believes he or she could benefit from these valuable courses.

These classes are FREE, but space is limited so you MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month:
For "Respect Week" by LovelsRespect.org
[Is this Abuse?](#)

Wednesday, February 27, 2013
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Brief presentation at 6pm
Please RSVP: 502.587.8673 or
swilloughby@elderservinc.org

From the **Women's Business Center:**

[Small Biz University](#)—3rd Tuesdays
Location: Indiana Wesleyan Univ. (1500 Alliant Dr.)
For details and to RSVP email: [Ruth Daniels](#)

[One Billion Rising](#): Coordinated on U of L campus by the PEACC program and V-day. Students and members of Louisville's community will be putting on multiple events to raise awareness of V-Day and the fight to end Violence against women.

"Based on information available to our office, we believe this request is a scam and advise businesses to exercise caution in providing information or payment to Corporate Records Service." Additional information is available in a [press release](#) issued February 7, 2012.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Monday, February 18, 2013 (1-4pm)
HOME OF THE INNOCENTS

Brown Forman Training Center
In the Basement of the Hockensmith Pediatric Assessment Center

OR

Monday, February 25, 2013 (9am-12 noon)
CENTER FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES

Board/Conference Room
Email sward@louhomeless.org to
REGISTER IN ADVANCE with name, agency and # attending.

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